



STATE OF MAINE

MAINE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

23 State House Station
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

The State Board of Education held a regular monthly meeting on July 15, 2003, at the Arthur R. Gould School, South Portland with the following members present: Chair Jean Gulliver, Vice Chair Philip Dionne, Joyce McPhetres, Wes Bonney, Ken Allen, Jack Norris, Ellie Multer, Jim Carignan, and Janet Tockman.

Also present were: Sue Gendron, Commissioner; Judy Malcolm, Team Leader, Support Systems Subteam; Scott Brown, AIA, School Construction; Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist; and Rhonda Casey, Clerk.

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED by Jim Carignan, seconded by Joyce McPhetres, and unanimously voted to approve the June 18, 2003, minutes as written.

CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW TEAM FOR HUSSON COLLEGE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Moved by Phil Dionne, seconded by Ken Allen, and unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST FROM THE HIGH TECH INSTITUTE INC. TO OFFER ACADEMIC CREDIT PROGRAMS IN MAINE

Background: 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that the State Board of Education may approve an application from a postsecondary educational institution located outside the State of Maine to offer within the state courses or programs for academic credit. Officials from the High Tech Institute Inc. located in Phoenix, Arizona have made application to offer programs leading

to completion of requirements for the degree of Associate in Applied Science in the areas of Medical Assistance, Computer Networking and Information Technology, Internet Programming and Solutions Technology, Digital Design and Animation, Computer Electronics, Drafting and CAD Technology, Architectural Drafting/CAD Technology, Surgical Technology, X-Ray Technology, and Massage Therapy. These degrees will be offered on-site at one or more of the Institute's locations: Marietta, Georgia, Orlando, Florida, or Phoenix, Arizona. It is planned that resident recruiters within the State of Maine will recruit students. As there will be a physical presence in Maine, this request requires approval by the State Board of Education.

The High Tech Institute Inc. is approved by the Arizona Board for Private Postsecondary Education, and it is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCCT – an accrediting agency recognized by the US Secretary of Education). The Board authorized Review Team met with a High Tech Institute, Inc. representative on March 18, 2003, and considered the Institute's request. Following this meeting a report was prepared that includes Team findings resulting from the application of Board adopted standards. The report contains a recommendation for State program approval status and has been prepared for State Board consideration and action during the July 16, 2003, meeting of the Board.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the request from High Tech Institute Inc. to offer academic credit programs in the State of Maine. The period of approval would be from Spring 2003 through Spring 2006.

In clarification, Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist, explained that this approval is required to permit the High Tech Institute, Inc., to have a resident recruiter in Maine and that no courses or programs are to be offered in-state.

The proposed motion made by Ellie Multer, seconded by Ken Allen, and unanimously approved by the Board was modified to read as follows: This approval only permits High Tech Institute, Inc. to have a resident recruiter in the State and does not approve the delivery of courses or programs within Maine. The period of approval would be from Spring 2003 through Spring 2006.

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO STATE BOARD RULE CHAPTER 61 – RULES FOR MAJOR CAPITAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Statement of Fact: The State Board of Education accepts applications biennially for new school construction, major capital improvements. These projects are rated by the Department of Education through the application of a need-based formula. A priority list of the rated applications is created listing the applications in order from the most needy to the least needy. The State Board of Education may approve projects for state funding as long as no project approved will cause debt service costs as defined in M.R.S.A. 20-A, §15603, sub-§8, paragraph A, to exceed the maximum authorized limits, in subsequent fiscal years.

The proposed rule clarification will define "initiation date" as the date established by the Department on which the school administrative unit may start the construction phase on a new or renovation project, and it also clarifies procedures for investment of project funds.

Authority for this rulemaking is provided in M.R.S.A. 20-A Chapter 5, §405, M.R.S.A. Chapter 609, §15905, sub-§4 (also §15901 through 15917) and M.R.S.A. 30-A, §0000-3. The need for rulemaking is to clarify existing rules.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the proposed changes to Section 1 and Section 11 of Chapter 61 – Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

MOVED by Ken Allen, seconded by Ellie Multer, and unanimously voted to adopt the proposed changes to Section 1 and Section 11 of Chapter 61 – Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Commissioner Gendron reported on the following:

- That the Education Committee will be reconvening on August 11.
- That as she reported to the Board in June, the Department has started conversations with New England Compact to look at how these States will respond to the No Child Left Behind law.
- On August 4 the Department will announce its Continuous Improvement Schools during a press conference in Augusta at 10:00 a.m.
- That Brud Maxcy attended an assessment conference in San Antonio, Texas in June. He learned that the American Research Institute (ARI) had completed research in comparing standards across the country and by far Maine's standards are the highest. The American Research Institute also performed an analysis between the National Assessment Educational Progress (NAEP) and Maine's standards. Maine's standards could possibly be used as a benchmark for other states.
- That the Department has also been working with a team to identify a level of support that should be provided to all schools in Maine.
- NCLB has funds available for the Department of Education to hire three distinguished educators whose sole responsibility will be to work with those schools identified as Continuous Improvement Schools.
- That four school administrative units (SAUs) in the Dover Foxcroft area have passed a resolution to begin regionalization conversations. These SAUs have requested that the Department provide a facilitator.
- That the Department is working to provide the 8th grade MEA assessment online to all eighth grade students as part of the laptop initiative.
- That in August she will be comparing the newest implementation of Essential Programs and Services with the requirements for implementing the Learning Results. The timelines for these initiatives are not aligning well. One issue is that, roughly a year ago within the statute for the Learning Results, the language was changed to require an assessment similar to the MEA assessment for all eight content areas. Currently, only three areas (reading, math, science) are funded, and if it is intended to require that all

eight content areas are assessed then there are not enough funds in the Department of Education's budget to cover them.

- That the Department of Education has distributed the assessment guidelines and has begun the field study.
- That the Department of Education's leadership team will be meeting for three days starting July 21 to review its strategic plan.
- That earlier this year Dean Cobb shared with the State Board a concept for developing professional development centers through the university and that the chancellor is willing to commit a pool of money. To date, four centers have been formed and are up and running in the following areas: Washington County, Mid Coast, western Maine, and Aroostook County. The Department is looking to collaborate and provide some Title II funds to support those centers.
- That the Department has begun to review and redefine its processes, which include recruitment procedures for migrant education. The Department is also working with the U.S. Department of Education (US DOE) to write a handbook to be used to provide training for all recruiters.
- That annually the Department receives approximately \$4 million from the federal government for Migrant Education, but pending the outcome of the inspector general's investigation the Department will receive approximately half of its Migrant Education funds and that the status of the remaining allotment for January to June will not be known until December 2003.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chair Gulliver reported on the following:

- That Phil Dionne is working with the National Association of State Board's of Education to schedule a facilitator for the Board's September retreat.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Phil Dionne:

- That he is in the process of drafting an agenda for the retreat with discussion time built in for:
 - Essential Programs and Services
 - Committee structure
 - Board by-laws
 - Reporting out by Board members who are involved in legislative directed committees, study groups, and/or task force.
 - Board budget
 - Department of Education roles
 - School Construction
 - Vocational Educational

- Small school consolidation
- That the Study Group involving LD 149, An Act to Transfer Bureau of General Services School Construction Functions to the Department of Education, will be holding their first meeting on August 4.

Ellie Multer:

- That she has begun the process of bringing together potential members to participate on the Charter School Study Group. This assignment from the Education Committee is essentially a research assignment and is not a gathering of pros and cons of charter schools. Both David Silvernail and Jim Carignan have already provided materials for the group to review at their preliminary meeting on July 28.

Joyce McPhetres:

- That the SAU Committee will meet on Monday, July 21 to review new data that Suzan Cameron has been gathering. A report has been drafted and will be reviewed during Monday's meeting.
- The Governor's task force on school administrative districts met on July 15, 2003, and discussed the issues involving school unions. A general sense among the group is that school unions are not beneficial. Most of the day the group discussed its understanding of and agreement on definitions of regionalization and consolidation. It also discussed types of incentives, criteria for and conditions of regions. One possible definition of a region would be five or more SAUs in a geographic area, with students totaling 2,000 or more. These units do not have to be contiguous but rather in close proximity. The Commissioner would approve any region's plan that included mission and goals, governance and organization, savings, targets to achievement, targets of plan of action to include such items as supplies, transportation in the field, and special education, etc.

Jan Tockman:

- That Walter Harris and she continue to work on the special education assignment.

Wes Bonney:

- That he received one of the six official pens that Governor Baldacci used to sign the Essential Programs and Services legislation into law, making several long years of work a reality.

ADJOURNMENT:

State Board of Education unanimously agreed to adjourn the Wednesday, July 16, 2003, meeting at 3:00 p.m.